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Dear Friend,

I hope that you and your family are well. It was a busy week here in Washington. Next week, I'll be on the road in McAllen, TX for another hearing on the border crisis. I'll be sure to bring updates via social media and this newsletter.

I'm also joining the Timcast IRL show with special guest Steve Bannon, live-streaming NOW from the Capitol, with my friend Congressman Matt Gaetz to discuss our work fighting against the weaponization of the federal government. You can watch it HERE.

Weaponization of the Federal Government - The Twitter Files

The Twitter Files, which have exposed how the Deep State worked hand-in-glove with Twitter to censor Americans, are a great example of journalism that truly matters. But Democrats showed us this week how an independent, truthful journalist is a massive threat to the Left's burgeoning authoritarian censorship-industrial complex.

If you tell the truth, the Democrat Party sees you as a Republican operative, which is revealing.

In the Weaponization Committee's hearing yesterday, Democrats insulted and belittled Matt Taibbi and Michael Shellenberger, two independent journalists who reported the Twitter Files. Democrats then attempted to get these heroic men to publicly reveal their sources – a flagrant intimidation tactic towards journalism from government officials.

I appeared on the Ingraham Angle last night to discuss:



Also, during yesterday's hearing, I revealed the worst bureaucrat you've never heard of before - Richard Stengel. He helped create and then ran the State Department's Global Engagement Center, a giant hub of government censorship exposed by the Twitter files.

READ: Twitter Files Number 17

He referred to himself as the "chief propagandist" of the Obama State Department and defended the use of propaganda, saying:

"My old job at the State Department was...the chief propagandist job. I'm not against propaganda. Every country does it, they have to do it to their own population."

As if that weren't bad enough, he was a leader in the fight against so-called "Russian disinformation" and worked to make it possible for the federal government to censor Americans promoting so-called "disinformation." Before working in government, he was the editor of TIME magazine. After leaving government, he worked for Big Tech as a senior advisor at Snapchat – a perfect example of the sinister revolving door between Big Media, Big Tech, and Big Government.

TWEET: <u>Charlie Kirk – "Rep. Dan Bishop plays clip of Richard Stengel, the first head of the State Department's Global Engagement Center."</u>

Stengel has advocated for destroying the First Amendment to go after what he deems "hate speech." People like Stengel are a stain on our Constitutional republic. He and his ilk are on a mission to destroy the First Amendment in a ruthless quest for power.

I guarantee that I will always defend the First Amendment and all our Constitutional rights with everything in me. Stengel and other wannabe tyrants must never again be allowed to wield the levers of power. I will do all I can to protect our country from those who would destroy our Constitution.

WATCH: The Worst Bureaucrat You've Never Heard Of.

No More Surrender Caucus

This past Saturday, I spoke at CPAC here in Washington. It was a pleasure to meet many North Carolinians who attended the conference and see our Lieutenant

Governor, Mark Robinson. If more patriotic North Carolinians were part of the fight in D.C., we would all be a lot better off!

Watch my full remarks here:



Red tape, Regulations, and Over-Zealous Bureaucrats

There's no shortage of power-hungry bureaucrats in Washington.

Today, the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on the Administrative State held a hearing on reining in the administrative state and reclaiming Congress's Legislative Power, chaired by my friend Congressman Thomas Massie.

The "expert" witness the Democrat Party brought in tried to claim that it's better to put decisions in the hands of unelected bureaucrats instead of elected members of Congress.

The idea that the administrative state is free from politicization is genuinely absurd. Remember Operation Chokepoint? Administrative state bureaucrats illegally targeted lawful businesses in a purely political attack. That's just one example of many.



I also spoke to the New York Post about the absurdity of the US Government-funded "Global Disinformation Index," which created a blacklist of conservative-leaning news websites.

READ: "No program or office like this should be receiving any federal funding; I can tell you that much. My office is currently looking at all possible avenues to defund these rogue agencies violating Americans' rights and [we are] working to investigate them."

Shrink Washington, Grow America

Today, I joined my colleagues from the House Freedom Caucus to unveil our position on the upcoming debt ceiling negotiations.



SHRINK WASHINGTON, GROW AMERICA

"The Members of the House Freedom Caucus will consider voting to raise the debt ceiling contingent upon the enactment of legislation to:

Cut current spending by ending President Biden's \$400 billion student loan bailout; rescinding all unobligated, unspent COVID-19 funds; recouping the \$80 billion in IRS expansion funds, as well as billions of wasteful climate change spending in the so-called "Inflation Reduction Act;" and finding every dollar spent by Democrats that can be reclaimed for the American taxpayer.

Cap future spending by setting topline discretionary spending at the FY2022 level for 10 years, allowing for 1% annual growth. Doing so will cut \$131 billion in FY2024 and save roughly \$3 trillion over the long term by cutting the wasteful, woke, and weaponized federal bureaucracy. Furthermore, this enables Congress to use the appropriations process to address the many abuses and disasters caused by the Biden Administration, such as the chaos on the southern border, COVID vaccine mandates and discrimination policies, and the unconstitutional "pistol brace" ATF rule. Importantly, 10-year spending caps at the FY2022 level puts our budget on the path to balance while protecting Social Security retirement and Medicare benefits.

Grow the economy by enacting major policy changes and reforms to the wasteful, woke, and weaponized federal bureaucracy, including but not limited to:

- Curtailing burdensome regulations by requiring congressional approval under the REINS Act;
- Unleashing the production of reliable domestic energy by ending federal regulations and <u>subsidies</u>;
- · Restoring Clinton-era work requirements on welfare programs; and
- Passing a pre-emptive Continuing Resolution with non-defense discretionary spending restored to the pre-COVID FY2019 level to force Congress to pass appropriations in a timely manner."



To save our country, we must get our fiscal house in order. We must make real commitments to cutting woke and weaponized spending before we raise our borrowing limit.

WATCH: House Freedom Caucus Press Conference

You can read more here from Fox News -

READ: House Freedom Caucus members unveil plan to address debt ceiling crisis amid battle with Biden, Democrats

President Biden also released his proposed budget, and as expected, it's chock-full of wasteful, woke, and weaponized spending. My team and I are going through the budget in detail now, and I'll continue to fight against all forms of woke and weaponized spending.

The Biden-Mayorkas Border Crisis

As the Chairman of the Oversight Subcommittee on the Committee on Homeland Security, I'm committed to implementing an aggressive oversight agenda to hold our bloated and ineffective Department of Homeland Security (DHS) accountable.

Some recent reporting exposed a DHS domestic censorship program operating under the guise of "fighting misinformation." I spoke to Fox News about our subcommittee's plans to investigate and hold them accountable.

READ: <u>DHS agency appears to be 'burying' evidence of involvement with 'domestic censorship activities'</u>

Next week, I'll be in McAllen, Texas, for a Homeland Security Committee hearing on our border crisis. We've recently seen the tragic kidnapping and murder of American citizens who crossed into a cartel-controlled area of Mexico near the border, further showing the deadly violence our porous border causes.

READ: Border Patrol Chief Ortiz to testify at Homeland Security Committee hearing in McAllen, Texas

Soft-On-Crime Fails Again

Our nation's capital should be a place where all Americans can safely visit and not have to look over their shoulder worrying about being carjacked, robbed, or murdered. Congress has jurisdiction over D.C., and it was far past time to act. House conservatives led a measure to repeal D.C.'s new radical criminal code that would have REDUCED the penalties for violent crimes.

In a humiliating defeat for the soft-on-crime Democrats, both houses of Congress approved the measure. Even President Biden has recognized that his party's stance on crime is a failure for American safety and has said he will sign the bill into law.

TWEET: Soft-on-crime policies are a failure.

Votes this week:

- H.R. 1226 (passed): Wounded Warrior Access Act
 - This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to maintain an online portal for veterans to request V.A. claims and benefits.
- H.R. 1123 (passed): Understanding Cybersecurity of Mobile Networks Act
 - This bill requires a report on mobile service networks' cybersecurity and vulnerability to attacks.
- H. Con. Res. 21 (failed): Bringing U.S. troops home from Syria

- This resolution directs President Biden to remove the U.S. Armed Forces from Syria within 180 days. I proudly voted for this resolution, and I am disappointed to see it voted down.
- H.R. 753 (passed): VA COST SAVINGS Enhancement Act
 - This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to create on-site medical waste treatments if doing so would save money.
- H.R. 140 (passed): Protecting Speech from Government Interference Act
 - This bill prohibits federal employees from censoring speech or pressuring others to do so while acting in an official capacity.
- Bishop Amendment to H.R. 140 (passed)
 - My amendment ensures that federal law enforcement agencies are not allowed to take punitive action against speech protected by the First Amendment.
- **H.J. Res. 27** (passed): Disapproving of the rule submitted revising the definition of "Waters of the United States"
 - This resolution uses congressional authority to officially disapprove of the Biden Administration's rule that would dramatically expand the definition of "Waters of the United States" and allow more bodies of water to come under federal jurisdiction.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES



CONNECT WITH US

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

2459 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-1976

MONROE, NC OFFICE 300 N Main Street

Representative Dan Bishop

Monroe, NC 28112 Phone: (704) 218-5300 Fax: (844) 273-1255

SALISBURY, NC OFFICE

The Gateway Building 204 E. Innes St. Salisbury, NC 28144

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